THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented to help farmers are - Technology Mission on Cotton; Integrated Oilseeds, Oilpalm, Pulses and Maize Development; Technology Mission on Horticulture for North-East Region including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, HP and J & K; Micro Irrigation; National Bamboo Mission; National Horticulture Mission; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; Macro Management of Agriculture; National Food Security Mission and National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility.

There is a subsidy element in most of these schemes. However, funds are released by the Department to the State Governments as grants in aid. State Governments only disburse funds as subsidy to beneficiaries. Details of subsidy element of various schemes are part of guidelines of schemes which are available on the website of the DAC - WWW. agricoop. nic. in.

(b) and (c) Both the Central and State Governments carry out extensive awareness campaigns through print, electronic and other media among farmers regarding availability of schemes. Component for publicity is provided under the schemes of the DAC. The scheme of Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension is meant exclusively for disseminate information through radio, television, etc.

Increase in fertilizer subsidy

3269. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep increase in fertilizer subsidy over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the annual growth in farm production over the same period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to bring about reforms in such subsidy policies to enhance productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The expenditure on fertilizers subsidy during last three years has been as follows:

Years	Subsidy (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	28,019.55
2007-08	43,319.16
2008-09	99,494.71

(c) The annual growth in foodgrain production is as under:

Years	Annual growth
2006-07	4.16 %
2007-08	6.21 %
2008-09	1.34 %

(d) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers for review of the Fertilizer Policy including examination on nutrient based subsidy policy towards *inter alia* higher agricultural productivity and production for food security.

Production of apples

3270. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the production of apples in the country due to Government/private efforts to bring more areas under apple cultivation, particularly in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the actual production of apples during the last three years, area-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further augment the production of apples in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The available data on production of apples for the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and that for the year 2008-09 indicates that there has been consistent increase in overall production of apples except during 2006-07. The details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme *i.e.* Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) to harness the potential of horticulture of the region by increasing production and productivity of horticultural crops including apples. In order to augment the production of apples in the country, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, protected cultivation, rejuvenation of senile orchards, integrated nutrient and water management, integrated pest management, post harvest management, processing & marketing including HRD under this scheme.

Statement

Details of production of Apples during last three years

A - Area (000' ha)

P - Production (000' MT)

State/UTs	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	9.1	9.6	9.8	9.8	10.8	9.8	10.8	9.8
Himachal Pradesh	88.6	540.4	91.8	268.4	94.5	592.6	94.72	510.16
Jammu & Kashmir	100.1	1151.7	119.4	1222.2	126.4	1268.5	133.1	1332.8